

REMARKS

There is a Final Rejection outstanding with regard to claim 64. Claims 63 and 109 have been designated as allowable. Claims 65-108 have been objected to as based upon a rejected independent claim (i.e., claim 64). The rejection indicates that claims 65-108 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection of the independent base claim.

Claim 64 is here amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 65 such that claim 65, previously designated as allowable but for its dependency, now contains all the limitations of the rejected base claim (i.e., claim 64). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims currently pending, following entry of the present amendment, are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the entry of this amendment will eliminate all outstanding issues and obviate the need for an appeal. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendment, followed by a formal notification of allowance as to all pending claims. During a phone conversation with Examiner Kifle on November 14, 2003, the Examiner stated that the foregoing amendment, insofar as it eliminates all outstanding issues, would be favorably entertained. If, however, the Examiner perceives any impediments to the entry of the amendment or the formal notification of allowance as to all pending claims, the Examiner is encouraged to call applicants' attorney at the number

provided below. Such informal communication will expedite examination and disposition of the present case.

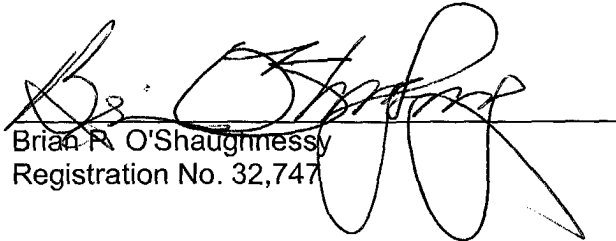
Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: Nov. 26, 2003

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